

Wanted

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

102 La Fleche Building, 102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 25965

VOL. IV.

Edmonton, Alberta, July, 1944.

NUMBER 7.

They that dig foundations deep
Fit for realms to rise upon,
Little honour do they reap
Of their generation,
Any more than mountains gain
Stature till we reach the plain.

These at labour make no sign,
More than planets, tides or years
Which discover God's design,
Not our hopes and not our fears;
Nor in aught they gain or lose
Seek a triumph or excuse!



Efficient Production

By P. H. Ashby

(Continued)

The forces of evil remind me always of a type of lizard found in foreign lands. This lizard is a most terrifying looking animal, yet those who know it is quite harmless, for it cannot bite or sting. It has nothing back of it but sheer bluff. And the forces of evil are exactly like that. Without the support of the common people they are absolutely helpless to enforce their will upon us. The forces of evil maintain themselves in this position, dominating our lives, rendering us financially dependent on them, waging wars, only because we do not have faith in our fellow-men and thus allow ourselves to be split up into opposing groups. We are going to call this bluff soon and the fight will be on. But it will be a fight worth while, for the rewards are so great that I hesitate to mention them. Life will then be well worth living for toil shall cease and want and privation be no more. It will be as though the blind could see the beauties of nature and the deaf could hear the sweet songs of birds. Then we shall produce abundantly without fear and consume with perfect freedom and no one shall want. Crime for financial gain will disappear and with it will go the greatest blots upon human Society, the jails and penitentiaries. Those poor souls whose minds are warped and twisted as a result of this evil system, will be hospitalized and cared for. There will be no jails.

PEOPLE'S CONTROL ESSENTIAL

To win this fight we must be constantly on guard, taking each step carefully and once taken, we must not retreat. A loaded gun is a valuable weapon in the hands of the right party, but a dangerous instrument in the hands of the enemy. The commercial co-operative movement is exactly like a loaded gun. It can be used by us for a very desirable end, but it can also be used by the enemy to frustrate our efforts. Do not grab at this co-operative movement by the muzzle. Get hold of it by the butt and get the safety catch on and then hold on to it. Yes, it is true that some of these co-operatives pay a little more to those co-operating. That is but bait, for one cannot catch a fish without bait. Exercise the same control over the commercial co-operative movement as you would over a loaded gun. Commercial Co-operatives are methods by which those co-operating hope to obtain some definite results. They are not the only methods that can be used. I was listening to the radio a while ago and the Farm Radio Forum was on the air. It was stated

that certain groups had planned to buy and operate, co-operatively, a retail store, a saw-mill, a feed-mill and some other local establishment. Now, a farmer is either a farmer or he is not a farmer. Most certainly he is not a retailer, nor a miller, nor a saw-mill operator. There are plenty of retail stores, feed-mills and saw-mills operated by individuals who specialize in that kind of thing. We want individual freedom and security, not collective ownership of a retail store or anything else, for these are but methods or means used for some purpose. Farming is a method and the Alberta Farmers' Union is an institution established by us for the purpose of gaining our objectives. It is a method, not an end in itself. What these groups in the Farm Forum wanted were the goods offered for sale by the retailer, lumber produced by the saw-mill, feed from the feed-mill and good prices for their cream from the creamery.

If therefore, these people have the money and can buy the goods offered by the retailer, the saw-mill and the feed-mill, these tradesmen would immediately rush orders to the factories to replenish their stocks of retail goods, saws and machinery, and seek more help to cut more trees to be made into lumber. This in turn would set the wheels of all industries moving, for once the farmer receives just prices for his products, he seeks to improve his home and buildings, fences and machinery and that means everyone else gets busy from the retailer all the way back to the manufacturer and miners of iron ore. A prosperous agriculture means national prosperity. We are "the backbone of the nation". Our duty then is to become prosperous and be prepared to provide a good home for any returned soldiers who want to live in the country. That does not mean he is to be a slave either, for it is not necessary to toil on our farms at all. There is plenty of work to be done, but under the sane system of management, there is no need for any human to work any harder on a farm than he would at any other occupation. I cannot do better than quote from the Editorial page of the Western Producer of April 27th. Quote: "Our own farmers, far from being ill-advised to 'harp' on prices, would be guilty of criminal negligence if they did not. For they are the guardians, not only of their welfare and that of their employees, but of the soil on which our children and their children after them, will have to depend." Unquote. In other words, the future of humanity

is in our hands. The forces of evil are destroyers. The forces of good are builders. Our duty is to build up our soils, not despoil them.

PROSPERITY WITH FREEDOM

We all have much to learn, but if we keep in mind the facts that our duty is to bring about a prosperous farming community, preserving and building up our farm lands and homes and producing the highest possible quality of farm products, we shall not go far wrong. As there will be a tremendous demand for food stuffs from all the countries ravished by war as soon as hostilities cease, we must be prepared to supply this demand. This means that all those returning from overseas who want to live in the country, should be able to do so and we should be able to pay them adequately for their help, as well as provide them with a good home. A prosperous farmer can do that. A poverty-stricken farmer cannot. We must organize for production and this production must be efficient. Because we have not yet organized for efficient production, we are losing thousands of dollars weekly by being compelled to hold our hogs over, when they are ready for slaughter, using up valuable feeding stuffs, taking up the time we can ill afford to spend in caring for these hogs and then being penalized for overweight. We have only ourselves to blame, for we have neglected our own business, efficient production, and spend far too much time butting into the business of others, such as the co-operative movement which is being used to centralize control in everything. Then too, when we leave this business of Alberta and Canada, which is our business, to the party politician, who nine times out of ten is nothing but a wind-bag with no more idea of how to manage such a business than has a Jackass, we can expect nothing more than chaos.

Let us then, attend to our own business and having laid a sound foundation on which to build the future of agriculture, we shall then decide whether or not to branch out into the various branches of agriculture which we have lost in past years, such as the creamery business, meat processing and so forth.

INVENTION the CHILD of LEISURE

It is a well known fact that the more leisure human beings have, the greater progress is made in scientific discoveries. The wheel, the screw, nut and bolt, sewing machine, telephone and radio all resulted from work done during hours of leisure. No man ever invented anything who had to toil for a living with no hours of leisure. Therefore, one of the first things to consider is the elimination of toil and drudgery from farm life. That means most of the chores must be abolished. Let us consider the dairy department

first. The average production of milk per cow in any part of Canada is away below the average production of our best herds. Milk is produced from cows of various breeds and crosses, some T. B. tested, some not tested at all. Many such cows do not produce enough milk to pay for their feed costs, let alone the labour and housing. Yet, efficiently organized, we can double the production of milk from the same number of cows within five years. Take the feeding of these cows. Some are fed a well balanced ration, some fairly well and some poorly fed. Some get only straw in the winter months when dry. I have seen cows in the spring of the year that were so thin and emaciated they could scarcely walk about. Thousands of our milk cows never get a suitable ration. Then look at our barns. How many herds are housed in a fireproof, well lighted air conditioned barns? Very few, for even the farmer and his family have little better than shacks in which to live. Yet milk is a most valuable and perishable product and the farmer and his family the most valuable members of human Society. Have we had no timber from which to obtain lumber? Oh yes, Have we had no men able and willing to work in the forests producing building materials? Oh yes. Have we had no sand, gravel, cement? Oh yes, always abundance of all these things needed to build modern dairy barns and homes. Well, if we told this to someone who had never visited this earth before, they would laugh at our ignorance and stupidity, for it is indeed stupid for human beings to live in the midst of abundance and suffer in poverty.

DEMOCRACY

What can we do about dairy business? Well I'll tell you! Join the Farmers' Union, of course! You are a farmer and therefore that is your avenue to see your farming business gets a square deal. Not only that; but you are also a Citizen of Canada and you will also want EVERYBODY ELSE and every other business to get a square deal. Each separate business has its own Union and each Union can bring a certain amount of pressure to bear on the Government to try for proper working conditions in each industry. But we also need something more complete and comprehensive. Something that can compel the Government to carry out the wishes of ALL the people for the good of ALL. It will require a real organization to accomplish that. A bigger one even than the Farmers' Union, because it will be a UNION of all the electors of Canada which we will call a Federation of Voters. This Federation will be entirely non-partizan and will always remain so because this time we electors will compel our representatives to accept OUR platform and if they refuse they won't get OUR VOTE. If the electors are organized then NOBODY will be able to get elected except those who agree to our

platform. Did you read the article in the April issue of the Bulletin titled, "Action on the Political Front"? Get it now if you have it and read it over again. There is the system of organization we should follow. On page four, "An Electoral Organization to Serve Democracy". I have no knowledge of any system of organization that suits our purpose better than this. Here, the individual is not absorbed and lost sight of. The organization itself is but a system or method used by individuals for the benefit of individuals. Collectively the individual members serve each other, "One for all and all for one", with no one person or group imposing his or their will upon others. I should say the first thing for us to do as citizens is organize in groups as outlined in this article. Then we can begin to move as platoons and battalions in such a way that the forces of evil will be forced to retreat and once disarmed will never again threaten Christian civilization.

CHANGE IN ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION RADIO TIMES

We are glad to announce that we have been able to obtain a better time for our radio listeners in the South. The Broadcast from C F C N is now timed for 9:00 to 9:15 p.m., each Friday, and this..... will be continued until the end of July when we expect to suspend our talks until after harvest. We will try and retain this time and therefore wish to hear from our members if they think it is suitable.

Owing to circumstances over which we have no control our time on C J C A has been moved from Tuesday night to Saturday night but the time is the same 10:15 to 10:30. This must remain until the termination of our present contract at the end of July. We will try and regain some other night than Saturday when we start again after harvest unless we hear from a large number of listeners that they want the Saturday time retained.

Purebred Registered Yorkshires

Weanlings, bred and open gilts, boars. The kind that will grade "A" and bring you a premium. The best is none too good for a Union member. Come and make your own selection.

P. H. ASHBY & SON,
Route 3, South Edmonton.

NOTICE

We ask all our Bulletin subscribers to note the date which is on the name sticker on their Bulletin.

This date shows the month of expiration as recorded on our subscription list and we shall continue sending the Bulletin to you up to this date.

If you receive a card requesting your renewal while your subscription has a considerable time to run, please ignore it as we have many subscribers of the same name and sometimes a card is sent to the wrong person by mistake.

Edmonton, Alberta, June 24th, 1944.

Dear Sir:

In keeping with its policy of community service, Radio Station C J C A is now presenting "Report from Parliament Hill" each Saturday at 5:45 p.m. The men in House of Commons at Ottawa are YOUR agents.... hired by you, paid by you, to look after your interests. "Report from Parliament Hill" is presented by C J C A to help keep you informed about public issues, and how your agents are meeting them.

This series is proving exceptionally popular with service clubs, organizations, study groups, and students, as a source of information for round-table discussions, debates and general instructional and informational citizenship activities.

To keep you posted on the programs to come, we take the liberty of submitting hereinunder a schedule of future broadcasts in this series. Your publicizing this feature through the media at your disposal would be greatly appreciated.

July 1 Norman Jasques P.M. Wetaskiwin.

July 8 Mrs. Cora Casselman M.P. Edmonton East.

July 15 Hon. J. A. MacKinnon M.P. Edmonton West.

July 22 Anthony Hlynka M.P. Vegreville.

July 29 J. M. Dechene M.P. Athabasca.

August 5 Walter Kuhl M.P. Jasper Edson.

August 12 Robert Fair M.P. Battle River.

August 19 J. A. Marshall M.P. Camrose.

Thanking you for this and all previous favours, I remain,

Very truly yours,

BROADCASTING STATION C J C A.

T. A. Shandro,

Publicity and Merchandising Director.

CORRECTION

The contribution of \$5.00 which was marked in our Bulletin as a donation to the Ukrainian paper from Mr. Yelenek on 17th June 1943 should have been credited to Shamrock Valley Local No. 256.

Copy of Correspondence Exchanged Between Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, and the Secretary of the Alberta Farmers' Union

May 17th, 1944.

Hon. J. L. Ilsley,
Minister of Finance,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

The enclosed press statement expresses the opinion of the Alberta Farmers' Union in regard to extending the bank charters for a ten year period.

We would like to point out that owing to the unforeseeable nature of financial arrangements, because of war and post-war necessities, it would be a very risky thing to make commitments regarding financial control during such a period.

The existing control has not served well in the past and we have no confidence that it will serve during the coming period.

It would seem to be a grave lack of statesmanship that would tie this country so that it could not deal with future emergencies during a period which we all recognize is unpredictable at present.

We trust you will have these considerations in mind when discussing this renewal of the bank charters and confine that to a strictly yearly limit.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

* * * *

Ottawa, 20th May, 1944.

Dear Sir:-

I wish to acknowledge your letter of May 17 enclosing a copy of a press release issued by the Alberta Farmers' Union condemning the proposal to renew the banks' charters.

As you are no doubt aware, the House of Commons gave the Bank Bill second reading on May 11th, and referred it to the Banking and Commerce Committee. It is now receiving consideration in that Committee.

In view of the approval of the principle of the Bill by the House of Commons, I do not believe that it is accurate to state that there is any "unanimity of public opinion" in Canada that "the charters to the Banks be not renewed," as stated in your press release. The point of view expressed in the resolution of the Alberta Farmers' Union was thoroughly debated in the House of Commons on second reading, but was rejected by a substantial majority. It is, therefore, no longer in issue and for that reason I cannot undertake to keep it in mind in our further delibe-

rations on the bill in Committee stage.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) J. L. Ilsley.

H. E. Nichols, Esq.,
Secretary,
Alberta Farmers' Union,
206 Agency Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.

* * * *

May 31st, 1944.

Honourable J. L. Ilsley,
Minister of Finance,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 20th instant referring to the press release of the Alberta Farmers' Union condemning the proposal to renew the Bank charters for another ten years, you will notice if you re-read the statement that it refers to the unanimity of public opinion expressed by this resolution, which of course refers to the representatives of those people passing the resolution, and I may say it was with the exception of one, unanimous.

Am I to assume from your letter that the clearly expressed wishes of the people of this organization, the Alberta Farmers' Union (which at a conservative estimate represents 20,000 families in the Province of Alberta), are to be ignored by you.

You may ignore their wishes for a time but I desire to draw to your careful attention that such an attitude towards these producers, who have been mainly responsible for Canada's ability to supply an adequate amount of bacon for Britain, is wrong and they are going to demand their democratic rights and insist that the rights of the real wealth producers are treated with dignity and that the presumptuous usurpers who merely deal in "promises to pay" be relegated to their rightful place.

We cannot accept your statement that the principle in question is no longer an issue simply because it was voted down by a subservient and party controlled House of Commons, the majority of whom apparently do not understand the issues at stake.

The farmers of the West recognize that plentiful production does not mean prosperity for them. Indeed it has been demonstrated time and again that a false accounting system prevents them from ever getting a square deal and the more they produce, under the automatic defla-

tionary system of which you appear to be such an ardent champion, the less recompense they will receive for their produce. Surely as the Minister responsible to the people of this country for the safe conduct of its finances you must realize by now that the financial reflection as shown by your budgets does not show the true state of the actual or potential productivity of this country.

Large and mounting debts year after year while the productivity of the people increases are absolutely incompatible, and we think it is high time that financial statements should be realistic enough to give a real reflection of the facts as we KNOW them, rather than lying falsities cooked up at the behest of monopolistic institutions which the Parliamentary records show were not averse to sacrificing the very heart of the Nation at the commencement of the greatest war in history. (Reduction in first war vote from 500 million downwards).

These facts PROVE that their interests are not bound up with the interests of the Canadian people as they apparently care nothing for the downfall of Canada. The inference is that these financial interests are willing and able to find a haven in any land so long as they are allowed to carry out traitorous intrigues and maintain power over their fellow men.

We should appreciate an opportunity to present our viewpoint before the Committee on the same terms as is accorded to other organizations.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

* * * *

May 31st, 1944.

Honourable J. L. Ilsley,
Minister of Finance,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed you will find a brief dealing with the revision of the Bank Act and in particular with the renewing of the Charters to the Commercial Banks.

We feel that our recommendation to limit the granting of renewals to a yearly basis is of particular value at this time because no one can foresee the requirements of the future and the results obtained by the policies which the Banks have pursued in the past are not conducive to any feeling of confidence for the future if they are allowed the same latitude as in the past.

This organization of over 20,000 paid up members representing the family life of at least 50,000 farmers, passed a resolution at their last Annual Convention in conformity with this brief.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

Ottawa, 2nd June, 1944.

Dear Sir:-

I wish to acknowledge your letter of May 31st, enclosing a brief prepared by the Alberta Farmers' Union for consideration in connection with the Bank Bill presently before the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

I believe that a copy of this brief was sent to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce and that the Committee voted this morning to have the brief incorporated into the record of the proceedings of the Committee. It will in due course come up for careful consideration by the members of the Committee.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) J. L. Ilsley.

H. E. Nichols, Esq.
Secretary,
Alberta Farmers' Union,
206 Agency Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.

* * * *

Ottawa, 7th June, 1944.

Dear Sir:-

I wish to acknowledge your further letter of May 31st, on the subject matter of the Alberta Farmers' Union resolution which you sent me on May 17th.

As I indicated in my letter to you of June 2nd, your representations to the Banking and Commerce Committee, copy of which you sent me under date of May 31st, were incorporated into the record of the Banking and Commerce Committee and in due course will come up for consideration there.

I am afraid that you have misunderstood my letter to you of the 20th of May last. In that letter, I pointed out that the issue raised in the resolution of the Alberta Farmers' Union was one which had been debated in the House of Commons but that the majority of the House of Commons voted in favour of the principle of banking as contained in Bill 91. The Alberta Farmers' Union resolution used the expression "notwithstanding the unanimity of public opinion expressed by this resolution" and I pointed out in my letter of May 20th that it was hardly accurate to state there was any such unanimity in Canada that the charters of the banks be not renewed. On the contrary a substantial majority of the people's representatives in the House of Commons voted against this point of view. Far from ignoring the wishes of the people the action of the House of Commons is in direct response to the will of the majority. From the point of view of parliamentary procedure, the issue raised in the resolution of the Alberta Farmers' Union has been thoroughly debated and settled. If progress is to be made at all, Parliament must go on from that point and deal with the Bill in accordance

with the expressed wishes of the majority.

With regard to the latter part of your letter of May 31st where you speak of "lying falsities cooked up at the behest of monopolistic institutions," I can only presume that these words are intended as an insult to me and to the Government and I am afraid that I cannot continue to carry on correspondence with one who indicates such passion and violence.

Yours truly,
(Signed) J. L. Ilsley.

H. E. Nichols, Esq.
Secretary,
Alberta Farmers' Union,
206 Agency Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.

* * * *

June 13th, 1944.

Honourable J. L. Ilsley,
Minister of Finance,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

In brief reply to your letter of 7th June we shall have to leave the matter contained in the third paragraph and agree to disagree.

With regard to your last paragraph you cannot reasonably draw any such conclusion as you state. I have carefully read Hansard and have followed the enquiries of the Committee on banking and the facts brought out show that:

1. Certain information is being withheld from the Canadian people which they have a right to know.
2. Certain privileges are allowed to the banks which enable them to pay big profits on their nominal share capital.
3. Certain privileges are being allowed the banks by way of "writing down" securities which can be used to give their shareholder still more excessive profits while other businesses are being forced into "Bankruptcy."
4. The creation of deposits by the chartered banks on the basis of ten to one of their cash reserves in the Bank of Canada has brought about a condition of unpayable debt. The first World War cost us over two billions. This has been paid in the form of interest and we still owe more than we borrowed. Sir Thos. White said the First World War would be paid for out of the top six inches of Canadian soil.

During 1931-1937 inclusive, the income of Western Canadian farmers dropped by 2¼ billion from the previous seven years. This was when the cost of the First World War was paid. But we still owe it !!!

During this same period a large surplus was built up which put Canada on a safe food basis but the prices received by the farmers

put them into such an unsafe position that hundreds of efficient farmers were closed out by the Mortgage Companies and many lost their homes while you delayed action on an issue which involved the base of Canada's war effort.

5. The wealth of the country increased.
6. But debts overcame it.

I still think that the logical conclusion to be drawn from these facts together with the information gained as a result of the recent discussions in the House, justifies the expression I used and which cannot be construed as applying to you personally and I can only conclude by saying that it was the evidence of the things of which I complain being done that caused a very mild individual to express himself in a way which you are pleased to say "indicates passion and violence," but which really is a very moderate way of describing efforts which seem to have in view the bankruptcy of our country.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION COUNSEL ARGUES IMPORTANT CASE

An important decision was won for the farmers of Alberta before Justice Ford at Calgary, by Mr. J. A. Ross, counsel for the Alberta Farmers' Union, when a decision was rendered against "Examination for Discovery" of farmers under oath, preliminary to the actual trial. This is an important decision and will affect hundreds of farmers in Alberta.

* * * *

An application was made by a creditor to cause the debtor to be examined under oath as set out in Section 15 of the Bankruptcy Act.

The effort was to make this apply to debtors coming under the Farmers Creditor Arrangement Act but the effort failed.

The following is an extract from the judgment given by the judge.

It is my opinion that the F. C. A. Act read with authorized rules and regulations that must be considered in respect of this application does not require the official receiver to cause the farmer to be examined on oath. There are other duties and functions under The Bankruptcy Act performed by a trustee sufficient to give full effect to the words of section 12 of the F. C. A. Act.

There will be a declaration that no right of examination, as is sought here, exists.

"Clinton J. Ford"

J. D. C.

CALGARY, Alberta, May 31st, 1944.

A. F. U. Bulletin

Published monthly by Alberta Farmers' Union,
at the Central Office,
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Address:

A. F. U. BULLETIN
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Editorial

Just as we are going to press the news came over the radio that Mr. Ilsley will be attending the International Monetary Conference. Mr. Ilsley was quoted as saying, "Whatever is decided at the International Monetary Conference will effect the world's economic condition after the war."

The inference contained here is not hard to follow for those who have been watching developments connected with this International Monetary Conference. First of all the announcement was made by Dr. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, that anyone who thought there would be a return to the gold standard policy was "day dreaming."

Later on came the announcement that the plan advanced by the United States which was in favour of reinstating Gold had won out over the British plan which wished to ignore gold. Then came the flat statement printed in a leading New York newspaper that as the British pound sterling would be related to the American dollar which would be based on gold; then the British pound would, willy nilly, be tied to gold.

Mr. MacKenzie King has already stated that Canada would be represented at this conference and this was done without consulting parliament in the matter so we may assume that our monetary dictators have issued their orders and a so-called democratic Government has to jump to obey them without the representatives of the people being consulted at all.

Now just what does all this mean? There is only one answer and it is supplied by the statement attributed to Mr. Ilsley, "Whatever is decided at the International Monetary Conference will effect world economic conditions after the war."

This is of immense importance to Canadian farmers and workers because no matter what good crops are raised this does not necessarily mean that this will bring them prosperity. Indeed the reverse is implied. If the manipulations of international financiers are going to effect economic conditions then plentiful production will inevitably result in low prices because the so-called law of supply and demand is always used as an excuse to keep down prices when production is plentiful and farmers may expect to

be told that the only way for Canadian products to find a place in the markets of the world is to undersell all other competitors and this will have to be done not on the world value of their wheat but on its value as determined by an international rate of monetary exchange which will be so arranged that Canadian wheat will have to take a more severe cut than that of any other country owing to the high value of the Canadian dollar in the many markets of the world as determined by the international money changers.

When the Canadian dollar is at a high value as compared with the British pound for instance, it means that instead of one British pound being exchangeable for \$4.86 in Canadian money, it may only be exchangeable for \$3.50 which has happened in the past. Thus, when a certain amount of Canadian wheat is sold to Britain for one pound it means that Canadian farmers will only receive \$3.50 instead of \$4.86 which is only 72% of what would have been its value if the rate of exchange had been at parity. Thus, a penalty is inflicted on the Canadian producer which is unjustified. Such manipulation can be avoided entirely by paying for Canadian production to Canadian producers in Bank of Canada money at a Canadian price as determined by Canadian wage levels, Canadian taxes and a Canadian standard of living. In this way the fraudulent manipulations of the money changers can be avoided and goods be exchanged for goods on an equitable basis. This should be a part of Canada's Post War Policy.

RADIO FUND DONATIONS

May 23rd.	Local No. 596.....	\$5.00
May 25th.	Local No. 82.....	2.00
May 26th.	Local No. 541.....	10.00
June 8th.	Local No. 592.....	5.00
June 12th.	Local No. 531.....	1.00
June 14th.	Local No. 327.....	5.00
June 15th.	Local No. 17.....	1.60
June 15th.	Local No. 490.....	3.70
June 19th.	Local No. 422.....	4.00
June 26th.	Local No. 158.....	36.00
June 27th.	Local No. 51.....	5.00
June 28th.	Local No. 307.....	20.00
June 29th.	Local No. 301.....	15.00

LIST OF NEW LOCALS

Bonnie Glen Local No. 676;
Secretary Wm. Arndt, R.R. 2, Thorsby.
Rocky Rapids Local No. 677;
Secretary F. F. Cameron, Rocky Rapids.
Frains Local No. 678;
Secretary Nick Antoniuk, Frains.
Breton Local No. 679;
Secretary T. A. Creighton, Breton.
Strong Local No. 680;
Secretary H. Tack, Hardisty.

On Whose Side Is Social Credit Now?

Thursday, August 22nd, 1935 was just like any other summer day in Victoria. A gentle sea breeze blowing over Beacon Hill Park, small white clouds tossing in a bright blue sky, and neighbors talking over their rose bushes. It was peaceful in the quiet little provincial capital.

Yet it was a day of expectancy for many. Today our neighbors in Alberta were casting ballots. For weeks now people had gathered in droves to read the Bulletins posted on the windows of the Times. For weeks Aberhart had promised \$25 a month. Day after day the radio boomed his voice—the end of poverty in Alberta. People were thrilled. Night after night they debated and discussed. Some were horrified. Others amused. Social Credit wouldn't get elected. That Aberhart couldn't capture a single seat was the prediction of one B. C. politician.

Then came the evening of the 22nd. I was at a C. C. F. meeting in Victoria. The candidate for the coming federal election had just finished his address when a young man hurried down the aisle waving a sheet of paper. Eagerly he climbed to the stage.

"It's a landslide in Alberta! Social Credit—elected 34, leading 24!" There were only 63 seats altogether. All was silent for a moment. Should they applaud? After all, Mrs. Steeves and Harold Winch had warned of dangerous tendencies in certain Social Credit teachings.

Yes! They'd applaud! Were not Social Crediters progressives at heart? True, they differ on theoretical points from their radical brethren, but is controversy not to be expected among those who take to soap boxes to remake the world?

Did not Social Crediters point out that the people do not get enough money to buy the goods produced and did they not demand the issuance of "new money" by way of a "national dividend" to bridge the gap and guarantee a minimum of security and independence for all? The idea was essentially similar to the CCF plan to socialize finance and issue enough money so tickets would be available to move all the goods.¹ Supporters of Social Credit were just the kind of people who, in other provinces, were making the CCF the nation's number one political news.

Aberhart's Government was swept into office on promises of almost revolutionary changes. It remained to become a quiet and able provincial administration. But the change did not stop there. First is lost its fire and fervour. Then it lost its leader. Has it now lost even its good intentions? Is it now losing its following?

Social Credit is now leading defender of the old order.² Today, with Canada dividing as never

before, into two great camps — those who want a return to the mythical "free enterprise" and continued rule by our financial malefactors, on the one side — and those who are struggling to bring about an "affirmative society" of democratic collectivism on the other side, the leaders of the Social Credit party are taking their places among those who do not wish to move ahead.

Alberta long ago threw into discard forever the old line parties which still plague Canadian life. To stand a chance of winning even the odd seat, a Liberal or Conservative must bear the dishonest label of "independent". In such a province only a real reform movement can march to power, and the honest Alberta citizen, whose genuine desire for progress caused him to vote for Social Credit, will refuse to support them if they persist in their new role.

But no longer is Alberta alone affected. Social Credit emerges today as a national movement. The Alberta scene becomes the national scene. The attitude and role of this party becomes the concern of every progressive in Canada.

It is not a trivial matter then, when they spearhead their publicity campaign with attacks on the CCF and such declarations as "Here is the kind of thing our boys are fighting in Europe — National Socialism", "We are invited to surrender our freedom for regimented security", "We would become creatures of a supreme state authority". Premier Manning even adds the absurd charge that "Socialistic propaganda is always well financed by money powers."

Mrs. Steeves and Harold Winch were right when in August, 1935, they said there were dangerous tendencies in Social Credit.³

However, no matter how ridiculous such charges they make may sound, it will serve no purpose to simply call them absurd. Dishonest statements raise honest doubts, and it is up to those who understand the truth to take the time to explain it.

Some people honestly believe that freedom cannot be ensured in a socialist state. If they were to realize that democratic socialism means the active participation of an ever increasing number of people in their own affairs, with decisions made by more and more people, not less and less as is the trend today they would view C. C. F. proposals with more understanding. The C. C. F. aims to give increasing opportunity for popular expression. Referendums and public hearings would be practical methods, as well as the establishment of machinery for making effective use of the many public spirited organizations now existing. The C. C. F. aims to replace the undemo-

cratic power of the capitalist state by the democratic power of the people, making their own future with the assistance of a new type of public administration so closely connected with their economic and personal interests that it will be a genuine expression of their long sought freedom. Socialism means more than public ownership of big business, it means public ownership of the government.⁴

Other people are honestly afraid that the C.C.F. will expropriate their farms. Desperate politicians have not hesitated to use this falsehood again and again. This is total war on the home front and anything goes. Under the big business rule of the old line parties the percentage of fully owned farms had declined in the past 40 years by 34% in Alberta, by 25% in Manitoba, and by 45% in Saskatchewan. Now they warn that "The CCF will take away your farm."

But there is no question of "What the CCF will do" to the farmers or any other group of working citizens. The CCF is a people's movement, a crusade of, by and for those very citizens. What is done by the CCF will be done not by any dictatorial clique but by decision of the people themselves. The CCF is just a means whereby the farm and city workers alike can take their own affairs into their own hands. That is social-democracy, in contrast to pseudo-democracy which we have today.

Politicians who think they're losing their grip on you say that socialization of the land is sure to follow socialization of big industry. They choose to ignore the fact that there is a vital difference in principle between a genuine free enterprise and big business enterprise. On the family farm, or in any other small business, the owner is also the worker and manager. He sells his labor power embodied in a product instead of selling it by the hour like a factory worker. But in big industry the workers do the work, hired managers do the managing, and the owners get the profits. That is where the CCF draws the line—whether there is exploitation of others or not. That is why the CCF right from the start has a thousand times blessed the family farm as an acceptable form of agriculture for those who wish to farm alone and like it.

This same idea of a true expanding democracy extends into industry. Those who are most concerned, the people who work in the industry, will have a steadily increasing share in its management and administration. It will be their show, subject only to the sharing of their power with representatives of the people as a whole who can help to fit all the pieces of the jig-saw puzzle together into the national plan for plenty.⁵

People do not become CCFers because they favor high tariffs or low tariffs, or because they want Tweedeldum for premier instead of Tweedelde. We became CCFers because we want lib-

erty to enjoy a happy, abundant life, free from exploitation, insecurity and all unnecessary restrictions on creative living. We alone believe that every citizen should be free from the obligation to devote his life to working for and enriching profiteers. This is part of the people's age old fight for freedom, for control of their own lives and future.⁶ Now, for the first time in history, we can have that freedom and in addition, abundance for all.⁶ Just as pioneers came west and took out homesteads so they could "be their own boss", we seek a new system in which we will have big industry and its benefits of mass production, but at the same time know that it is ours and that we are working for ourselves in liberty and freedom.)

Year by year, the huge and growing monopolies have tightened their grip of exploitation on our people. "Free enterprise" has become a myth in most important fields of big business. Few countries in the world have become more monopoly ridden than Canada. The popular cry against monopolies is raised by the old line parties, who don't mean it. It is also raised by the Social Crediters who don't mean it, but twist it into a double barrelled assault on big business and the CCF by attacking private and public monopoly alike as twin evils.

Are public monopolies bad? We have public monopoly, or near monopoly, of our schools, our postal system, TCA, and many public utilities. Who will say that the public would get better service or lower rates if these were private businesses out for the admitted purpose of making as much money as possible out of us?

The Social Crediters, like the wishful reformers of another generation, are out for "trust busting" and more private enterprise. But whether we like them or not, monopolies are here to stay, and grow bigger, because they are more efficient. Consolidations, mergers, the development of holding companies, mass production, all make this an irresistible historic trend. Do we want our huge industries and utilities split into a wasteful multitude of small competing private enterprises? If we want the luxury of a three ring circus of a million fighting little businesses, we can have it, but let's realize it would condemn us all to an age of scarcity. The efficiency of monopolies in major fields is obvious. Our only real choice is whether they will continue like tyrants to rule us, or whether an aroused public will demand that they be taken over by the only larger institution we can have—a people's government.

"How can we have increased democracy if everything is to be run by planners in Ottawa?" you ask. If that were the case, your doubts would be well founded—but that is not the case. A large part of our socialized, or publicly owned enterprises can only be run effectively and democratically by those who are near them. So public

ownership must take many forms — municipal ownership, provincial ownership, federal ownership, depending on the scope of the utility or industry. More than this, much public ownership will not be government ownership at all—it will be direct ownership of plants by citizens' groups such as co-ops, trade unions, and other non-profit organizations. Still other types of businesses may be publicly owned through independent "crown companies" such as T.C.A. today.

Diffused social ownership such as this, instead of resulting in greater centralization, would give the people in every part of the country and in every occupation, a far closer participation in the actual management and operation of their own affairs than they ever dreamed possible.

What about the "national dividend", dear to the heart of every Social Creditor? As a method of getting to every citizen a basic share of the new plenty, this proposal is not in the least out of line with CCF principles.⁷

Some Social Credit speakers choose to cover up the fact that the CCF has from the start advocated genuine monetary reform and declared that the people must control the issuance of credit. Public ownership of the entire financial system to achieve this monetary reform and end this debt creating system of public finance is the key to the whole CCF program.⁸ Finance controls capitalism, and until its private power is replaced by people's power, we are at the mercy of our financial overlords.

When you have private ownership of any industry, you pay for ever and ever, a charge for interest on the total investment before and in addition to profits. Under social ownership, such as we now see in public hydro plants, this charge is steadily reduced and eventually wiped out. The cheapest electric light rates in the world, in Winnipeg and Tacoma, are not an accident. They are direct results of the financial benefits of social ownership in reducing overhead charges for interest and profit. Let them guide us in other fields. The Social Crediters echo the popular cry against taxation. But we must pay for our expanding public services, one way or another. That is just the same as if every citizen had to work so many days every year to assist with the public business. No amount of financial reform will eliminate the necessity of sharing our national income with our public servants. The C.C.F. however plans taxation reform so that the burden may be spread more fairly, and so taxes may be a weapon to lessen the extremes of wealth and poverty.

Socialized finance doesn't mean that a person's private savings, the loaf you put on the shelf to eat tomorrow, will be affected in any way. Except to guarantee its security with all the resources of the country. But it does mean that the issuance of currency and credit will be controlled so there will be enough purchasing power

in the hands of the people so they can buy all the goods which are produced.⁹ And that has never been and can never be the case in any capitalist country. There has always been a surplus piling up to create depressions and provide a major cause for imperialism and war as the capitalist search for foreign markets for goods the people at home need but can't afford to buy. Genuine monetary reform, which is socialized finance,¹⁰ can alone solve those problems.

This is no time for genuine progressives to be misled into fighting among themselves on petty details of theory. For that would mean defeat, just as fighting among the British, the Americans, and the Russians would spell defeat in the war.

The progressives, on behalf of the people of Canada, are also fighting a war—for the right of our people to have a future of democracy, security, and abundance.

Never before has monopoly finance capitalism been more afraid of the future. And that fear of the future is a fear of the people, a fear that their old game is up. They see on the wall the same question that faced the capitalists in Italy in 1922 and in Germany in 1933—"Will we permit the people to increase their power, or will we show them who's boss?"

Our first war for democracy is for victory over world fascism. Our second and equally essential war for democracy is for victory over those Canadian finance capitalist rulers who are at heart just as fascist minded as any Hitler or Mussolini.

That second war is now in its opening phases. It can be won by the people, peacefully and democratically,¹¹ if they will unite in time behind the only progressive party in Canada ever to achieve mass nation-wide support. There is room in the CCF and in this fight for every honest champion of the people's future. There is room for minor differences of opinion on theory and policy, for this is the most democratic movement ever seen in our country.

The progressives of Italy, of Germany, of Austria, fought among themselves, just as the Social Credit leaders today fight the CCF, until it was too late. Fate has been kind to us. We still have time to unite our forces, and win that second war for democracy. And win we must, for a victory over fascism in Europe will be a small triumph if we fail to finish the job at home and give our people the chance to build a new Canada, of co-operation, justice and plenty.

M. B. & W. F.

* * * *

1. Never heard of this in CCF policy.
2. To say this is contrary to the facts.
3. Only dangerous to monopoly finance.
4. But not necessarily control over Money Policy.

5. We had "plenty" before the war; but the people lacked the income to buy it.
6. The CCF advocates work for all. It is only Social Credit which stresses leisure with freedom and abundance for all.
7. but never mentioned by them. This is only advocated by Social Credit.
8. On the contrary they propose to continue it indefinitely by issuing government guaranteed bonds.
9. Chief aim of Social Credit.
10. The only true kind of "socialized finance" is the Social or National Dividend which spreads money among all the people so that they can use it.
11. For our part we believe that if democracy is to survive party government must be killed and the will of the people made to prevail ALL the time; through the organization of all electors no matter what party affiliations they may have. This can only be accomplished by a Federation of Voters which will TELL any government what the electors want and will have the power to enforce their demands through their organization.

* * * *

We are printing this article because it is a well written declaration of the wishes which we believe the majority of people have in their hearts; and summarized in the paragraph (marked A) which begins, "Now, for the first time in history to freedom."

The arguments put up by the writers are good; but some are not the proposals of the party they advocate and some of the statements are not according to the facts. (See footnotes as indicated by numbers).

The writers are in the armed forces and we are respecting the request not to print their names. (Editor).

UKRAINIAN DONATIONS

May 6th.	Local No. 11	\$5.65
May 9th.	Local No. 74	10.00
May 13th.	Wm. Zolmer, Falun,	
	Personal Donation	3.70
May 25th.	Local No. 82	3.00
June 1st.	Local No. 629	5.00
June 9th.	Louis Bubel	.25
June 16th.	Local No. 191	10.00
June 16th.	L. Marchuk, Waugh	1.00
June 16th.	H. Tatarun, Waugh	.50
June 19th.	F. Tomy, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	E. Kliempors, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	N. Y. Tanasiuk, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	Adam Swab, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	S. H. Nowleits, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	W. Grasul, Andrew	.50
June 19th.	Local No. 8	5.00
June 29th.	Local No. 275	5.00

Farm Women's Corner

Happy are all free peoples too strong to be dispossessed, but happiest are those among men that dare to be strong for the rest.

Now is our chance to show the world that we are not afraid to be strong for our fellow-man. We as women of the farm, may have to pitch in and help too, we are quite able, this is our chance; we women of the farm know that opportunity only knocks at our door once in a life time, yet so often we are not there when the knock comes, therefore, we miss the opportunity extended to us. Don't let us be caught asleep at the switch this time. For did George Elliott the poet, not say, "What is opportunity to a man who can't use it? An unfecundated egg, which the waves of time wash away into Non-existence."

This writer speaks with the same favor towards women. We must therefore grasp this opportunity now and through our Farmers' Union, do our part. If I may point out the important part that women will play in moulding the world of to-morrow.

To any one who has studied the question, it is evidently true that the future of humanity will be decided, not by thoughts or actions of the few, but by mass thought and mass action.

If people have no collective mind, you have a very unhealthy organism. You have a social body without a mind and that is a sign of lunacy.

What we are witnessing today is the result of this social lunacy and I think you will agree that the evidence is overwhelming. The absurd economic paradoxes we find on every hand, the utter failure of governments, the stupid and unnecessary conflict on all sides of us today, and so forth, — there's no need to elaborate here — there should be no doubt in your minds regarding the social insanity from which society is suffering. And when we reflect that a social body without a collective conscious will, can but result in chaotic mass thought, is it any wonder that the entire social structure of the world has all the appearance of a system of organized lunacy.

The proper treatment for a lunatic whose mind is susceptible to cure is to remove his lunacy—in other words, to restore his sanity and this applies to society as a whole. We have to restore to the social body the collective mind without which society cannot function. That is the essential task which confronts us right NOW.

Here is a fact which can be demonstrated, that mass thought and mass action are not the

result of reason but rest entirely upon emotion and that brings me to the question of why I maintain so definitely that the future of humanity rests largely with the women. Men have got us into the present mess. It is to women we must look chiefly although by no means entirely, to give assistance to get us out of the mess.

There is a fundamental difference between the mind of man and the mind of woman. The mind of woman possesses something characteristic which at present is uncommon in men. This is an intuitive ability to arrive at the right conclusion without any reasoning process, or at least, that is what one of our great writers said not so very long ago. He went on to say, "This amazing instinct, or sub-conscious thinking, which enables women to arrive at uncannily right conclusions in the face of evidence to the contrary, and without the labourious process of reasoning, operates in much of their thinking."

WOMAN — MAN'S INSPIRATION

Apparently as a result of tradition, Man is the "Doer", but Man without the help of Woman is not a very successful doer. There has to be a combination of the two types of minds translated into action by the doer. To illustrate:—Every man—or nearly every man—imagines that he is lord and master in his home. That is, except when he is honest with himself on this question. Then he realizes that it is Woman who exercises the dominating influence in the home.

Few men will admit what is true of woman in the home is true of her in the social life of the nation.

If these views which I have expressed commend themselves to you, I know you will realize the importance of your work in shaping the future through your influence in the life of farm people of this Province, and the tremendous responsibility in this respect which rests upon you.

I think, too, we should meet at the local meetings of our Farm Union along with our men, not have a separate body. We should consider the problems of agriculture together. We can still be ourselves in the home, take our places in the life of the Province, in the form of the education of our children, the health of all, not forgetting our business of minding our own business and indeed that is building up a strong Farmers' Union in this Province; the only way in which we will ever get Parity Prices for our farm produce.

I do not believe that this conflict we are fighting today is merely a conflict on a physical plan. I believe that we are witnessing an age old crash, and the final phase of an age old struggle, between what might be termed the

powers of Light on one hand and the powers of Darkness on the other. How many believe this to be a conflict between Christianity and Anti-Christianity, or call it Paganism if you wish?

Are we not each a human instrument through which these conflicting powers are working and to each of us comes the opportunity to be used on one side or the other in this battle? That is a responsibility which none of us can escape.

In this work you and I must, along with the other thousands of farm people around us, accept this great privilege of being instruments in this work to establish a Great and Strong Farmers' Union.

In order to do so, we must all work as though everything worth while in our lives depended upon it and I assure you that it is so.

Don't give up if you meet failure the first time you try to sign-up a non-member, just keep on trying. For did not Confucius say, "Our greatest Glory is not in never failing; but in RISING every time we fall."

MRS. J. GEDDES, 3rd Vice-President,
Alberta Farmers' Union.

SHORT REPORT OF DISTRICT NINE CONVENTION

The following is a short report of the Convention held at Ponoka by District No. 9. A fuller report will be made later.

Need of greater organization of farmers "so that they may receive parity prices for their produce rather than charity bonuses" was stressed by Henry Kelly, of Millet, district president, in addressing the convention of district nine, Alberta Farmers' Union, here Monday.

Mr. Kelly said he did not favor affiliation with trade unions, holding it was unnecessary if farmers were properly organized. He hoped to see amalgamation of the A. F. U. and U. F. A. in the near future.

Membership in the district had increased 21½ times over 1943, reported A. Aaserude, of Leduc, District Secretary. He was re-elected. The convention decided to handle organization work directly upon refund by head office of 50 percent of the annual membership fees.

James Jackson, of Irma, A. F. U. president, addressed the meeting and mayor R. H. Jones voiced a welcome.

Director Henry Young, of Millet, district director, who is a member of the provincial board, reported. He was re-elected.

A. D. Olsen, of Home Glen, was elected district president to succeed Mr. Kelly, and P. H. Ashby, South Edmonton, was elected vice-president. There were 150 delegates registered.

The delegate and visitors at this Convention started a splendid contribution for the benefit of the flood victims by subscribing the sum of \$162.90.

THE SORROWS OF AN ORGANIZER OR HOW IT CAN RAIN IN SUNNY ALBERTA

Mrs. Geddes and I left Edmonton June 12th at noon to hold a series of Meetings, which Mr. and Mrs. Flanders of Elk Point had spent a considerable lot of time and hard work to arrange. Mr. Flanders is the President of District No. 4 and he had arranged one of these meetings in each of his Sub-Divisions or in other words the meetings would have been Sub-Division Conventions. But alas when we arrived at Armistice where the first meeting was to have been held, Mr. Flanders met us when we were getting off the train, looking like a drowned rat, (as it was just pouring rain) and told us to stay on the train to Elk Point as there was no place to stay at Armistice.

So we took the train back the next morning and when I got off the train at Owlseye, where I was to speak at a meeting at 7 p.m., Mr. Wahlgren met me to tell me I had better stay on the train as the roads were in such a bad condition that he did not think he could get me to Ashmont, after my meeting, where Mrs. Geddes was to have addressed a meeting at 1 p.m. also.

The weather looked like it was going to clear up when we got off at Ashmont, but in less than an hour it was raining cats and dogs again. So the meeting at Ashmont was a washout too. No one there but Mr. Atkins and Mr. Hartley. Mr. Hartley is the Sub-Director.

Then we thought we would flag a freight with a coach on the back to Edmonton, but the station agent said that the freight had nothing to pick up and that he had no authority to stop it. So we had to stay in Ashmont until noon Wednesday, and came back to Edmonton on a freight after all.

So the members can see what speakers run into and on top of all this we have to give up a line of meetings in the Dewberry district, supposed to have started the 16th of last month. But Head Office cannot do anything about the weather can they?

C. O. McGowan.

Alberta Farmers' Union,
102 La Fleche Bldg., Edmonton, Alberta.
June 30th, 1944.

THIS LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL DIRECTORS, SUB-DIRECTORS AND SECRETARIES OF ALL LOCALS

The following press release has been sent to all the newspapers in Alberta and is for your information showing the business transacted by the Executive at their last meeting.

Your attention is especially drawn to that part dealing with the fund in aid of the flood victims.

The Union is appealing to all its members to give as liberally as they can to a fund we have started to aid our fellow-farmers. The delegates and visitors at the Alberta Farmers' Union Convention of District No. 9 made a splendid start by subscribing the sum of \$162.90 for this purpose. We would like to see all the other Conventions take this up and in a spirit of friendly rivalry try to exceed the splendid contribution made by District No. 9.

We are also appealing to all our membership all over the Province to do what they can as quickly as they can to render assistance to those in distress. Farmers know what it is like to be up against it and I know that the plight of brother farmers will rouse a responsive chord in your heart. To our 21,000 members we appeal to do their best in this emergency.

You can either make your donation at your District Convention or send it in to Head Office to the Secretary, 102 La Fleche Building, Edmonton.

We want the Presidents and Secretaries of all locals in the flooded areas together with all other officers of the Union to make a personal interest in this matter and let us show that this Farmers' Union means something when it comes to helping a brother farmer who is in distress. Take this matter up at your local meeting and send us a list of the most urgent cases together with a suggestion of how much help is needed in each case.

Yours truly, H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

LETTER FROM ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

June 24th, 1944.

Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Gardiner:-

The recent floods in the Pembina River and Athabasca area bring out very strongly the necessity of a form of insurance for farmers living in these areas, which they are not at present entitled to under PFRA.

These floods have washed away buildings, killed livestock, destroyed grain in bins as well as the growing crops and rendered many farm homes unfit for habitation.

I wrote you on May 8th, pointing out how the farmers living in certain areas were compelled to contribute to a fund which they never had and probably would never get any benefit under its present terms and suggested at that time that the application of the act be enlarged so as to provide a comprehensive scheme of crop insurance.

Now that these floods have happened it brings the necessity for such action into sharp relief.

The farmers who have been flooded out have to face conditions which are even worse than those who are dried out because their stock of grain in their bins as well as growing crops are destroyed and in many cases their livestock killed and damage done in other ways which will take many years to repair.

In view of these circumstances I feel sure you will recognize their just claims to some adequate measures of help in conformity at least with the contributions which have been made to the fund by those farmers living outside the drought area and we would urge you to make an early declaration that steps are being taken to provide for an adequate measure of assistance for those farmers who have been paying into an insurance fund for years, under the terms of which they never expected to get any benefit, but which owing to unprecedented floods puts them in the position of needing help even more than those who already received and will continue to receive assistance in case of drought.

Yours truly,

H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

WILLOW VALLEY LOCAL No. 673 OF DISTRICT 12

A local of Alberta Farmers' Union was formed in this community twenty miles north of Lundbreck including members from Maycroft, Chapel Rock and Tod Creek. As the school at Tod Creek was in the centre of the district we decided to hold meetings here and named our local, Willow Valley.

Our first meeting since organizing was held on May 27th, when Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Pharis, sub-director and secretary of District 12, both addressed the well-packed schoolhouse on the value and aims of the Union. Questions were asked by the interested audience and ably answered by Mr. Pharis. Our president, Mr. Yves

IN MEMORIUM

The past President of Linaria Local No. 201, Mr. Harold Muson, Linaria, was killed in action in Italy on 24th May, 1944.

Mr. Fred Schmidt, 43, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, following a heart attack, on Friday, April 7th. Mr. Schmidt came to the Meadowview district in 1941 in company with his wife and took up farming.

Mr. Schmidt was the Secretary of the Stewartfield Alberta Farmers' Union Local No. 569.

The Union extends its sympathy to the bereaved ones.

Evano occupied the chair during the meeting. Mrs. Nellie Pharis, our secretary read the minutes of the last meetings. We now boast a membership of fifty-six in a ranching and farming area of sparsely settled country.

We intend to hold a meeting each month and discuss subjects and problems of interest to the farmers of this part of Alberta.

After the meeting was adjourned the ladies who were in charge of the refreshments served coffee and doughnuts. A charge of 10c from each adult was made to defray expenses of this lunch and with the proceeds left new cups and other necessary articles will be bought for use at these meetings or any public meeting held around here. We feel sure that the added attraction of having refreshments will help create interest in our meetings of the Alberta Farmers' Union.

Alberta Farmers' Union,
102 La Fleche Bldg., Edmonton, Alberta.

June 29th, 1944.

Press Release

Alberta Farmers' Union Starts Fund to Help Farmers in Flood Area

An executive meeting of the Alberta Farmers' Union was held in the Head Office of the Union at 102 La Fleche Building, 102nd Street, Edmonton, on Tuesday, June 27th. An important resolution, dealing with the victims of the recent flood in the Pembina Valley, was passed authorizing an immediate appeal to all members to subscribe to a fund for the relief of farmers who are suffering by reason of the effects of this serious flood.

At the Convention in District No. 9, held at Ponoka, on June 26th, a subscription was started for this purpose and the sum of \$162.90 was immediately donated. This was a notable start and the matter will be taken up at all the District Conventions and in addition all Union members throughout the Province are being asked to give what they can.

The Dominion Government is also being asked to extend the Provision of the Prairie Farmers Assistance Act so that these farmers who have been subscribing to this fund for years, may get some benefit now that they need it.

It has also been pointed out to the Income Tax Branch that farmers who are receiving accumulated payments on their Participation Certificates should not have to pay income tax on the total amount as if it was yearly income. In addition livestock men who are compelled to sell stock cows, either dairy or beef, for any reason at all, should not have to pay income taxes on such capital funds.

The following resolution was also passed.

In view of the fact that certain cases have

been brought to our attention where men have been discharged from the Army owing to certain physical disabilities which have either been revealed or became more apparent since enrollment in the forces and not, under the present regulations, entitled to any pension. We think the attitude reveals a serious flaw in the regulations and therefore demand that the present regulations be so amended that the category into which a man is placed on being enrolled shall be taken as a true indication of his health and any deterioration in the health of the soldier (notwithstanding the fact that he may still be in the same category as he was placed at the time of his enlistment) shall be attributable to the service and not to any previous condition.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

Alberta Farmers' Union,
102 La Fleche Bldg., Edmonton, Alberta.
June 19th, 1944.

The Editor,
Dear Sir:-

PRESS RELEASE

While the delegates of the Alberta Farmers' Union were in session at the Annual Provincial Convention in February, 1943, a statement was made in the press by the spokesman for the Alberta Mortgage Loans Association implying that Alberta farmers in particular were seeking to evade their lawful debts and hiding behind unnecessary debt legislation which was spoiling the credit of the Province. The Alberta Farmers' Union issued a statement at the time protesting the inference that the farmers were dishonest and pointing out that the only reason farmers

were not paying their debts was they simply did not have the money to do so.

Now, one and a half years later, the same individual says "there is no farm debt problem in Alberta" because the farmers are paying off their debts and they have reduced the principal of their debts by almost 35% in the last sixteen months. This proves that the Alberta Farmers' Union statement was absolutely correct and the statement made by the spokesman for the mortgage corporations absolutely wrong and without foundation.

Although prices for farmers' products are not high and the farmers have many difficulties to contend with in the way of labor and machinery shortages, which prevent many of them from obtaining much additional income from the better prices prevailing, yet according to Mr. Mitchell, President of the Canada Life Assurance Company, such rapid repayment was unheard of previously and the loan companies believe that Alberta farmers are making a thorough effort to free themselves of debt—chiefly by passing up the purchase of luxuries he added.

The first part of Mr. Mitchell's statement is correct and the reasons the farmers are making Herculean attempts to pay off their debts is, firstly, because they have always been anxious to grasp the first opportunity to do so, and secondly, because they have utterly lost confidence of ever getting reasonable treatment out of corporations which have hounded them to distraction when prices were low and now wish to entrap them again because they have plenty of money to invest.

The latter part of his statement is sheer drivel and could only be made by an individual who has absolutely no knowledge of the terrific efforts which the farmers have made to get out of debt, nor of the condition of living and work which they put up with in order to do so. The policy of these mortgage companies resembles that of a ghastly hyena waiting the chance to glut his insatiable appetite on the worn out bodies of those who have perished in the fight against entrenched privilege.

It is the opinion of the Alberta Farmers' Union that an individual who holds the beliefs expressed by Mr. Mitchell is utterly unfitted to deal equitably with farm loan situation.

Yours truly,
H. E. Nichols, Secretary,
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

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